

CLAIMS:

1. A method for placing indicia on the non-image side of a support for an imaging element comprising providing a support, wherein said imaging support comprises an image side having at least one imaging layer and a non-
5 image side; contacting said non-image side of said support with a thermal transfer donating sheet; applying energy in a pattern to said thermal transfer dye donating sheet; and transferring said pattern to said non-image side of said support to form indicia.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said thermal transfer donating sheet comprises at least one area containing dyes and at least one environmental protection laminate area.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said environmental protection
15 laminate area comprises ultraviolet absorbing materials.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said ultraviolet absorbing materials is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet absorbing dyes, ultraviolet absorbing pigments, ZnO and TiO₂.
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5. The method of claim 2 wherein said environmental protection laminate area provides protection from photochemical materials.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said photochemical material
25 protection laminate area comprises at least one hydrophobic polymer.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein said hydrophobic polymer comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of acrylate, acrylic, polystyrene, vinyl and copolymers thereof.

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8. The method of Claim 6 wherein said hydrophobic polymer comprises a blend of polyvinyl acetal and polyvinyl butyral.

5 9. The method of Claim 5 wherein said photochemical material protection laminate area comprises colloid silica and UV absorbing material

10. The method of claim 2 wherein said environmental protection laminate area comprises abrasion protection materials.

10 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein said abrasion protection materials comprise at least one material selected from the group consisting of silicas, microbeads, slip agents and fluoropolymers.

15 12. The method of claim 1 wherein said imaging support comprises paper.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said paper comprises resin coated paper.

20 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said paper further comprises at least one biaxially oriented, voided sheet.

25 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said imaging support comprises a closed cell foam core sheet and adhered thereto an upper and lower polymer flange sheet, and wherein said closed cell foam core sheet comprises an expanded polymer and a blowing agent.

30 16. The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of said upper and lower polymer flange sheet comprises a biaxially oriented, voided sheet.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein said indicia comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of letters, pictures, numbers, symbols, pattern and words.
- 5 18. The method of claim 1 wherein said energy comprises heat energy.
19. The method of claim 1 wherein said energy comprises laser energy.
- 10 20. The method of claim 1 wherein said imaging layer comprises photosensitive silver halide.
21. The method of claim 1 wherein said imaging layer comprises an inkjet imaging layer.
- 15 22. The method of claim 1 wherein said imaging layer comprises a thermal imaging layer.
23. The method of claim 1 wherein said imaging layer comprises an electrophotographic imaging layer.
- 20 24. The method of claim 1 wherein said support further comprises functional layers.
- 25 25. The method of claim 24 wherein said functional layers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of antistatic layer, release layer, friction control layer, dye receiving layer.
- 30 26. The method of claim 1 further comprising applying an environmental protection laminate layer to said non-image side of said support.